



701 Hebron Avenue – Third Floor – Glastonbury, CT 06033  
Phone: 860.548.1747 Fax: 860.541.6484  
[www.conncase.org](http://www.conncase.org)

March 14, 2018

Dear Representative Fleischmann, Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher, and Members of the Education Committee.

On behalf of the Connecticut Council of Administrators in Special Education, for whom I serve as President, I wish to convey our collective response to HB 5447, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of The Auditors of Public Accounts Concerning Private Providers of Special Education particularly (The NEW) Section 2, which proposes to regulate fees for all special education services by private providers.

The section that is particularly concerning is Section 2, which will regulate the fees for all special education services provided by private providers including private school, residential placements, and all related service providers. This is hugely problematic because the children we serve are not a one-size-fits-all population. States that have implemented systems such as this have negatively impacted the quality of services, increase staff turnover, stifled creative programming, resulted in some children not being accepted into programs because their needs exceed the funding a provider can receive, and limited related service provider involvement – not to mention that more senior, experience and highly sought after professionals are not able to be compensated for their special expertise and may limit their involvement for children in Connecticut.

Such regulation will promote fiscal consideration over special need consideration and thereby diminish the individual planning and programming that is the cornerstone of all special education legislation.

We urge you to avoid such rate-setting regulation and strike the stipulation of this section.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl Gross'.

Sincerely,

Carl Gross  
ConnCASE President